

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 307, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING 64 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MAKERS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE "CHARLES HOUSTON MURAL AND HALL OF FAME" IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA ON JUNE 22, 2013

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 64 African American history makers in Alexandria, Virginia on their induction into the Charles Houston Mural and Hall of Fame.

To walk through the streets of Alexandria is to walk through the annals of African American history in America from slavery to the Civil War to the Civil Rights era. The brick passageways chronicle the vast array of history makers and symbolic structures honored with the unveiling and dedication of the Charles Houston Ad Hoc Committee's "Charles Houston Mural and Hall of Fame" photographic exhibit.

"As an Alexandria History Maker, your legacy of service had added to the vitality and spirit of this community," the Committee wrote in honoring the contributions 64 inductees made to the historic city's African American heritage and culture.

It has been over 60 years since civil rights attorney Charles H. Houston passed away, but the good works recognized at this dedication show that the strength of his legacy has endured. Just like Mr. Houston, the honorees have played a major role in the City and have served as an integral part of the civic life of Alexandria and its citizens for generations.

The dedication ceremony was attended by 800 familiar Alexandria faces. Among the honorees present were Mr. Ferdinand Day, the first African American School Board Chairman for the state of Virginia, Police Chief Earl Cook, Mr. Eugene Thompson, former Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, author Marie Bradby, journalist Judy Belk, athletic director and basketball coach James "Jimmy" Lewis, Minister Charles Hall, and community activist Dorothy Turner. Other honorees include athlete Earl Lloyd, John Naismith NBA Hall of Fame, educator Harry Burke, Dr. Thea James, Gen. Leo Austin Brooks Sr., and attorney Samuel Tucker who led what is believed to be the first public sit-in in the Nation, the 1939 protest of the Alexandria Library's ban on African Americans.

Historic structures on the mural include: Beulah Baptist Church, the Franklin & Arm filed Slave Office & Pen, the Freedman's Cemetery, Seminary School, Fort Ward, the Odd Fellows Hall, Alexandria Home Bakery, the Capital Theater, Out Cross Canal, Colored

Rosemont, the Carver Nursery/American Legion, the Johnson Pool, the Robert Robinson Library and the Departmental Progressive Club.

The photographic mural will be permanently located at the Parker-Gray Way, the Wythe Street entrance to the Charles Houston Recreation Center. It establishes the African American footprint in the city and celebrates neighborhoods, schools, churches and businesses vital to Alexandria's African American community. The intent of the Hall of Fame is to honor and memorialize the achievements of African American history makers in Alexandria; document the contributions of Alexandria's African American community to the city's history; and foster appreciation for diversity of the African American experience in the City of Alexandria.

Besides the City of Alexandria's sponsorship, the project committee consulted with George Mason University faculty and received support from Hoop Academy International, Simpson Development, and the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church, among others.

Mr. Speaker, these 64 individuals honored by the Charles Houston Mural and Hall of Fame are a testament to the human spirit, an example for resilience and defiance in the face of hardship, and an inspiration given what they achieved in their lifetimes. Thank you.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,238,434,108.96. We've added \$6,111,361,358,195.88 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wonderful work of the Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana.

On July 15, 2013, the Region 15 Children's Advocacy Center, serving the families of Dearborn, Decatur, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties, will celebrate the completion of the Center's 1,000th forensic interview. These child-friendly forensic interviews are critical in identifying cases of mental or physical child abuse. Using non-leading and age-appropriate questions, a forensic interview uncovers the child's reality, in their own words, about the situation and is the most efficient means of providing support and accuracy to the criminal justice and child welfare systems in our State. For nearly a decade, my mother

served as a court appointed special advocate for children in abuse cases, and I appreciate how important the child's perspective is to a positive court outcome.

In particular, I want to recognize the leadership of the Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana. Executive Director Sarah Brichto and forensic interviewer Stephanie Back, both founding members of the Center, provide daily leadership and execution of the program's goals. I also want to extend special recognition for the vision of the Center to Board of Directors President Aaron Negangard and fellow board members Tom Baxter, Chad Lewis, Monica Hensley, Richard Hertel, Jennifer Tackitt, and Barbara Bowling. Their influential contribution to our local communities is truly inspirational.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana for their continued leadership in developing safer communities for all Hoosier children.

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HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 318, I inadvertently missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIE WILLIAMS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Willie J. Williams, our Nation's third-highest ranking Marine, for his distinguished service to the United States of America. For nearly 40 years, Lieutenant General Williams has served in the Marine Corps and today he will be retiring from his post as the Director of Marine Corps Staff and from the Marine Corps. He will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marine Barracks in Washington, DC.

Lieutenant General Williams was born to the late Herman Jones and the late Ella Mae "Bolden" Hill in Livingston, Alabama but grew up in nearby Moundville, Alabama. After graduating from Moundville Public High School, he attended Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama after his high school teachers, seeing his talent and high potential but limited financial means, helped him obtain a scholarship. Faced with many difficult decisions about his future, he reflected on his life growing up in the segregated South and he was enticed by a Marine Corps recruiter to join an institution where he would be evaluated based on merit and not the color of his skin. Lieutenant General Williams was commissioned in the Marine Corps in May 1974 and began his career with the 11th Marine Artillery Regiment in May 1975, serving as a Battalion Supply Officer and later as the Regimental Supply Officer/Assistant S4 Officer.